

Empowerment



To be added to the email list for those interested in this work, contact
Kim Robey at krobey@episcopalchurch.org or (800) 334-7626, ext. 5346

For more information for your church, dioceses or organizations, please contact:

The Anglican UN Observer's Office
www.anglicancommunion.org/un
(800) 334-7626

Office of Women's Ministries
www.episcopalchurch.org/uncsw
(800) 334-7626

Support AWE

Please make the most generous contribution that you can to support the work of the Anglican Women at UNCSW. Checks should be made payable to

DFMS and designated to **AWE**. Contributions should be sent to:

The Office of Women's Ministries
The Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Anglican Women



JAMES ROSENTHAL/ANGELICAN WORLD



Anglican Women's Empowerment

Seeking to be faithful to the Gospel, the mission of Anglican Women's Empowerment is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment world-wide. AWE is committed to the empowerment of women from the multicultural perspectives of the Anglican Communion and:

- seeks to strengthen women's voices and presence in the world using the blueprint of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals
- gathers Anglican women from around the Communion to participate in the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and
- supports the Anglican Consultative Council's resolution 13/31 calling for equal representation of women in decision making in the Church.
- partners with organizations whose focus is the work of the Millennium Development Goals with particular interest in Goal #3 Achieve gender equality and empower women.

International Instruments for Women's Empowerment

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Established in 1946, as a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) is to promote and support the principle of gender equality. The Commission reports to the Council on women's rights in political, economic, civil, social, and education fields. In addition, UNCSW makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems in the area of women's rights. Following the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the Commission's mandate expanded to include reviewing progress on each of the Beijing Platform for Action's areas of critical concern. For more information go to: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw

Each year the work of the UNCSW focuses around a different thematic topic:

2007: *"The elimination of discrimination against the girl child"*

2008: *"Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women"*

2009: *"Sharing of responsibilities for home and family, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS"*

Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)

In 1995, the UN-sponsored Fourth World Conference on Women met in Beijing, China resulting in one of the largest global conferences ever held. In Beijing women identified twelve areas of critical concern. These areas are outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). The BPfA identifies goals for the advancement of women in the world and calls upon governments, international institutions and civil society to take action in these areas of concern. Since 1995, progress in implementing the goals of BPfA has been assessed by UNCSW.

Beijing Circles

Beijing Circles are small groups that gather to work on implementing one part of the BPfA in their own local communities through prayer and commitment to action. If you are interested in starting a Beijing Circle in your community please visit the Beijing Circles section of the Women's Ministries website for the Beijing Circles Resource Guide.

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/41685_73656_ENG_HTM.htm?menupage=73689

Millennium Development Goals

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. Named as one of the highest priorities for the Episcopal Church USA at General Convention '06.

Anglican Women's Empowerment

Who We Are:

- Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE) was formed in 2003 under the leadership of Phoebe Griswold (Episcopal Church, USA) in partnership with the Anglican Consultative Council's United Nations Office (ACCUNO) to enable Anglican women's participation at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.
- AWE is committed to worldwide reconciliation, right relationships, peace and justice by serving as an Anglican voice for women and engaging Anglican women with the UNCSW, BPfA and MDGs as instruments for women's empowerment.

What We Are Doing:

- Since 2003, the number of Anglican women at UNCSW has grown to over 100 delegates. This number includes women from nearly every province in the Communion as well as a representative ECUSA delegation.
- During the UNCSW Anglican women connect with both government and civil society, lead caucuses, and network with one another.
- At the 2005 UNCSW Anglican women submitted a resolution to the 13th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) requesting the Standing Committee identify ways to achieve an equal number of women and men – lay and ordained – in all levels of decision making in the Communion. The resolution, 13/31, passed and included a request for the establishment of gender desks in each province.

What We Are Achieving:

- Building bridges across the Anglican Communion.
- Empowering Anglican women to claim their public voice in government, civil society, and their dioceses.
- Strengthening the connection of women across the Communion through the work of the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN), linking women through shared resources, communication, and prayer.
- Anglican women are utilizing ACC Resolution 13/31 to lobby for and establish gender desks in their own provinces.
- The strong Anglican presence at UNCSW has prompted growing recognition of the Anglican Church as a voice of faith for women's empowerment.